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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,496,786****Gubitosa et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 5, 1996**

[54] **CATALYST FOR REDUCING LOWER
POLYHYDRIC ALCOHOLS BY
HYDROGENOLYSISAL HIGHER
POLYHYDRIC ALCOHOLS AND METHOD
FOR PREPARING CATALYST**

[75] Inventors: **Giuseppe Gubitosa**, Novara; **Bruno
Casale**, Cameri, both of Italy

[73] Assignee: **Novaol S.r.l.**, Italy

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Related U.S. Application Data

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914.

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **B01J 23/46**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **502/182; 502/185**

[58] **Field of Search** **502/182, 185**

[56] **References Cited**

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Primary Examiner—E. Rollins Cross

Assistant Examiner—Timothy H. Meeks

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bryan Cave

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A metallic catalyst composition on an inert support, suitable in particular for hydrogenolysis reactions of higher polyhydric alcohols, which comprises the following relative to 100 parts of the catalyst:

a) 0.5 to 5 weight % ruthenium;

b) 1 to 10 weight % tin.

The catalyst is used in particular for producing lower polyhydric alcohols such as ethanediol, propylene glycol, butanediol and glycerol, by means of hydrogenolysis reaction of higher polyhydric alcohols.

4 Claims, No Drawings